

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1-17 remain in the application. All of the claims have been amended to eliminate the reference numerals. Reference numerals are not required under U.S. patent law and are given no patentable weight. Accordingly, an amendment to eliminate reference numerals is not a narrowing amendment and is not an amendment entered for purposes of patentability.

Claims 1-7 and 10-17 have been allowed. Claim 8 was rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting in view of the assignee's earlier U.S. Patent No. 6,851,976 considered in view of a secondary reference.

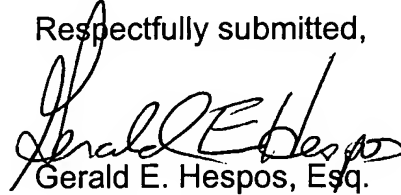
This amendment is submitted concurrently with a Terminal Disclaimer. It is believed that the Terminal Disclaimer overcomes the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claim 8. Accordingly, claim 8 and its dependent claim 9 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner objected to the drawings in view of improper cross-hatching for the parts of the connector that were identified as being made from a synthetic resin. Correction was required.

This amendment is submitted concurrently with Replacement Sheets that show the proper hatching for the elements that are made from a synthetic resin.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Hespos". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "G" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Gerald E. Hespos, Esq.

Atty. Reg. No. 30,066

Customer No. 001218

CASELLA & HESPOS LLP

274 Madison Avenue - Suite 1703

New York, NY 10016

Tel. (212) 725-2450

Fax (212) 725-2452

Date: June 15, 2005